



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Ready for Reuse Ceremony at Destrehan Plantation

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Atlantic Richfield Company (a BP affiliated company) are announcing the completion of a voluntary cleanup project in St. Charles Parish. State and federal officials presented BP with a Ready for Reuse Determination commemorating the successful investigation and remediation of the former Pan American/Amoco Refinery property, located adjacent to the Destrehan Plantation.

The Ready for Reuse project revitalized 165 acres of property formerly occupied by the Pan American/Amoco Refinery, which ceased operations in 1958 and was sold to a developer in 1972. Significant redevelopment did not occur and BP/Amoco reacquired the property in 1990. Over the last several years, Atlantic Richfield, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have worked collaboratively to bring this remediation project to a successful conclusion.

"Any project where property can be put back into productive use is a successful project," said DEQ Assistant Secretary Lou Buatt. "In this case, British Petroleum, EPA and DEQ worked together to ensure that 165 acres have been cleaned-up and can now be developed."

A Ready for Reuse designation acknowledges that a property has been investigated environmentally and, if necessary, cleaned up so it can be reused. The goal of this designation is to help foster economic development by returning underused or warehoused properties back to productive use for the benefit of all stakeholders, particularly the communities around them.

"Today's 'ready for reuse' determination clears the way for redevelopment of this valuable industrial property," said EPA Regional Administrator Richard E. Greene. "We are building on our experience using the enormously successful Brownfields program. This determination provides the necessary assurances to help encourage developers to reuse these valuable resources."

"BP strongly supports the beneficial, productive reuse of our former industrial sites, which provides communities with viable economic reuse of land. Successful regeneration requires cooperation among all involved parties and takes environmental leadership, dedication and hard work to prepare old industrial sites for productive use," said John Allaire, environmental business manager for the project. "BP applauds the city of Destrehan, St. Charles Parish, the state of Louisiana and the USEPA for demonstrating those qualities as we worked together to prepare this site for reuse."

For more information about DEQ's voluntary program, visit www.deq.louisiana.gov and go to www.epa.gov to learn about EPA's Land Revitalization Action Agenda.

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